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DIRECTORATE OF  
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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

## CONTENTS

SOUTH VIETNAM: Over the weekend enemy activity increased sharply in Thua Thien and Quang Tri provinces. (Page 1)

ROMANIA: National party conference (Page 2)

CHINA - YEMEN (SANA): Credit for development projects (Page 3)

BURMA: Operations against Communists (Page 3)

25X1

~~SECRET~~



SECRET

**SOUTH VIETNAM:** Over the weekend enemy activity increased sharply in both Thua Thien and Quang Tri provinces.

Communist ground and artillery attacks near Route 1 in northern Thua Thien on 21 and 22 July resulted in a temporary restriction on the movement of traffic on the road, which is the principal land link to government units fighting farther north in Quang Tri Province. To the south in Thua Thien, heavy ground fighting occurred around Outpost Checkmate southwest of Hue, and government positions in this same area were hit by more than 3,300 artillery rounds in a series of shelling attacks.

[redacted] the attacks are part of a planned period of increased activity in Thua Thien that is to continue from 20 to 31 July. The principal objective of these attacks, [redacted] is to interdict Route 1 just south of the Quang Tri - Thua Thien border. [redacted]

These attacks are probably designed to cut off counterattacking government forces in Quang Tri and to take advantage of the thinned-out government defenses around Hue.

Action has also been heavy farther north around Quang Tri City. A South Vietnamese Marine battalion was airlifted on 22 July to a point about six miles north of the city, where it joined two other marine battalions. The combined force reports that it has inflicted moderate casualties on enemy forces since the landing. Other marine elements, as well as airborne units, have clashed with enemy forces deployed on the city's outskirts, and on 21 July, airborne troops fought a pitched battle inside the citadel.

[redacted]

24 Jul 72

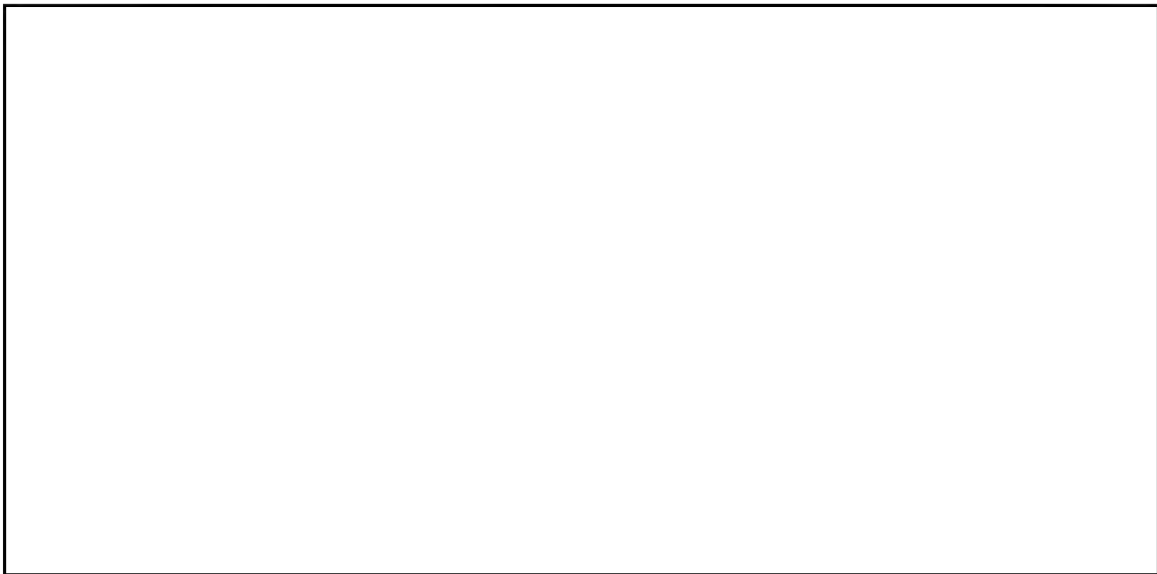
Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

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ROMANIA: Resolutions adopted at last week's national party conference suggest that party leader Ceausescu has strengthened his already strong hand. Delegates to the conference endorsed his call for a high rate of economic development as well as his reassertion of the country's independent foreign policy. The conference established several new economic agencies, including a Supreme Council of Economic and Social Development to be headed by Ceausescu. As a result of this organizational re-vamping, a number of personnel shifts, affecting both party and government, can be expected shortly. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

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24 Jul 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

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CHINA - YEMEN (SANA): China's agreement to provide Sana with a credit of about \$20 million to finance development projects reflects Peking's renewed interest in the Middle East area. Between 1958 and 1966, when China last extended credit to Sana, just under \$60 million was provided for road construction, several small factories, and commodity imports. Most of that sum has been used. In addition to negotiating credits from China, Sana has recently sought a pledge of renewed aid from the US, and last December concluded a small military aid pact with the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

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BURMA: The truce between the Burmese Government and Kachin rebels is paying dividends in the fight against Communist insurgents. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a joint government-Kachin force in early July drove the Communists from bases in the northeast border area. This is the first such joint operation, and its success is likely to encourage an extension of the truce and should help [REDACTED] talks that are now under way in Rangoon between the two sides. With a long history of conflict, both the government and the Kachins are aware that reconciling their differences will not be easy, and there is a continuing danger that some misunderstanding in the border area could undermine recent progress. [REDACTED]

25X1

24 Jul 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

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